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McHoor 243

13 February 1947

TO : SC Washington
FROM : SC Amson
SUBJECT : GULL
REF : X-9188

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. We have passed the first paragraph of your letter, dated 22 January 1947, to our SC field stations.

2. As you know there has never been any basic difference of opinion between Amson and Washington as to the potential usefulness (or uselessness) of White Russians as a group in accomplishing a high-level penetration of the RIS. We arrived at this conclusion gradually and as a result of a careful and systematic study of the Munich SC material, especially the very significant material produced by GULL.

2. In helping us arrive at an apparently correct appraisal of the intelligence potential of White Russian groups, Munich operations and similar operations conducted by other field stations in Europe rendered in our opinion a most useful and creditable service. The general views, as expressed above, will also be given to you orally by SPD-S upon his return to the States. We believe not to be wide off the mark in saying that high-level penetration of the CE type is 90% luck and 10% judicious elimination of unproductive low-level and medium level groups. Despite our low estimate of White Russian groups survey high-level information, we shall beware of letting this develop into a fixation which would automatically exclude any White Russian from the purview of CE operations just because he happens to be a White Russian. Once we have determined, however, that our views in regard to White Russians are also shared by the RIS, that is to say that as a matter of principle no White Russians are being used by the RIS for high-level espionage, we can safely discard groups of this type and individuals belonging to them as of no possible CE concern.

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MGH-003-228

28 February 1947

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

TO : SC Washington
FROM : SC Amson
SUBJECT : BEZCHIKOV, Yuri *note*
REF : I-9262

1. Your comments, dated 31 January, on MSC/RIR/400, dated 29 Nov 46, were of considerable interest to us.

2. As a general reaction we shall not reiterate our plan to consider this and similar reports as raw intelligence denoting unprocessed intelligence, inasmuch as there has been in the meanwhile a change in policy governing the editing and dissemination of Munich RIR's. The material is now being processed and edited by the Amson SC Desk, so as to conform to recent Washington directives concerning CR target priorities. This in turn involves lopping off a great many RIR's of dubious value or representing undeveloped leads, the analysis of which would unnecessarily take up your time. No doubt this system has its drawbacks, because intelligence which we consider marginal would not be passed on to you, although unbeknownst to us it might have fitted into the broader picture as you see it.

3. As regards the case under discussion, we note from our files that Subject was first mentioned in MSC 262 as an old Russian emigrant in Berlin who joined the Soviets to "save his skin". The basic report on Subject, MSC-306, *see paras. 3-4* dated 21 August 1946, states that Subject attended and graduated from a special Soviet Intelligence School in Dresden and that he had returned from that city wearing a Soviet uniform. In MSC 400, dated 29 Nov 1946, a sub-source of unknown reliability reported that "subject claims to be entirely satisfied with his new position as an NKVD Major".

4. On the strength of the above-quoted information we reasoned that there was some indication of "affiliation or experience with intelligence services" on Subject's part.

Forward to Amson, 19/2/47

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Are we correct then in drawing from your comments the inference that even if it should turn out to be true that Subject is now a ranking officer of the MVD, the fact alone that at one time he was a run-of-the-mill White Russian who considered it expedient to join the Soviet side, would make him ineligible for defection? We are not asking this question in particular reference to Subject's case, because the only mention of his possible defection occurred in a case-officer's comment, which was, moreover, couched in a very non-committal term and on which no further action has been taken.

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